

Brooks E. Kleber Memorial Lecture in Military History

12th Annual Lecture Series

Building the Perfect Hammer

The Rise of Joint Special Operations Command and What it means for America

Mr. Sean Naylor
Author

Established in 1980, the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) has become one of the primary actors in America's war efforts. JSOC turned the tide against al-Qaida in Iraq, killed Bin Laden and Zarqawi, rescued Captain Phillips, and captured Saddam Hussein. In his recent book, *Relentless Strike: The Secret History of Joint Special Operations Command*, Mr. Sean Naylor chronicles the history of the JSOC, and how they became the premier "go to" weapon in the War on Terrorism. During his lecture at USAHEC on Thursday, 5 May, Mr. Naylor will detail the development of JSOC's training through its 36 year history to include highlighting the stories of notable individuals, such as GEN Stanley McChrystal. He will answer whether the United States' main effort in a war can be secret while describing what is lost and gained by relying on JSOC in our current conflicts. Organizations under JSOC's control include special operations units such as Delta Force, SEAL Team 6, and the 75th Ranger Regiment among other secret units. These JSOC units have participated in nearly every military operation since its founding including Desert One in Iran, Grenada, Panama, Somalia, The Balkans, and most recently, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Sean D. Naylor, is the author of *Relentless Strike: The Secret History of Joint Special Operations Command*, the New York Times bestseller, *Not A Good Day To Die: The Untold Story of Operation Anaconda*, and co-authored *Clash of Chariots – The Greatest Tank Battles*. Mr. Naylor received his bachelor's degree in journalism from Boston University in 1988 and a Master of Arts in International Relations from the same institution in 1990. In 1987 he traveled to Pakistan and Afghanistan as a freelance reporter covering the Afghan Mujahedeen, meeting and conversing with Jalaluddin Haqqani, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and Hamid Karzai, among others. His 2011 series of articles for Army Times about the United States' secret war in the Horn of Africa won a Military Reporters and Editors prize, while his coverage of 2002's Operation Anaconda in Afghanistan earned him the White House Correspondents Association's 2003 Edgar A. Poe award for excellence in reporting an issue of regional or national importance.

DATE: Thursday, May 5, 2016

TIME: Doors open at 6:30 PM and the talk begins at 7:15 PM. The question period concludes around 8:30 PM.

PLACE: USAHEC, Visitor and Education Center, Multipurpose Rooms

For updates and any last minute changes in meeting times and places, please check the USAHEC homepage: www.USAHEC.org or call the Information Desk at 717-245-3972.